

LAZY MAN'S PARADISE

It Is in Paraguay, Where the Demand for Husbands Is Great.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—While in Asuncion, the capital of Paraguay, no longer ago than last April, I received no intimation of an impending revolution. Through-out Paraguay one is so impressed with the excess of women over men that he wonders where the revolutionists come from.

There are two causes for the scarcity of men. The first dates back to the time when the dictator Gen. Lopez forced his country into a four years war with the confederated armies of Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay. So long a struggle against such odds proved very destructive, and at its expiration the proportion of men to women was as one to twenty.

Although this long war closed thirty-five years ago the excess of women is still noticeable. I was told that as recently as twenty years ago it was with great reluctance that any male visitor was allowed to depart.

If the women could not through their hospitality induce him to stay they would forcibly detain him, so much were husbands in demand. Paraguay thus became the lazy man's paradise.

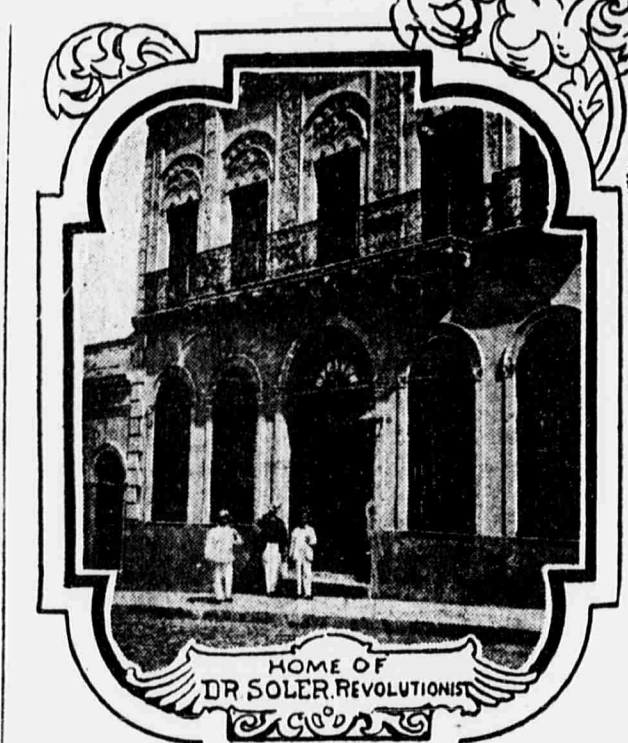
The climate and the fertility of the soil assure this condition. It is possible to live without labor aside from such as may be involved in the gathering of foods provided by nature.

When a lazy man can have some one to do this for him, and perhaps sow a little tobacco, what more can he ask? This tendency to a life of ease is the second reason why one sees so few people save women either about the streets and markets of the capital city or about the railroad stations in the country.

At the market any morning perhaps a thousand women may be seen engaged in trade. Not a salesman is to be seen. Even the bees, which hang in halves, are handled entirely by women.

All are barefooted. They come to market from the suburbs on little burros which bear panniers of fruit or vegetables, and they sit between the panniers with their bare feet hanging out in front.

Looking from the balcony of my hotel at early morning, I saw women emerge from the houses with baskets on their heads, all going to market to purchase the day's provisions. Frequently one sees a barefooted woman with a child in her arms, a basket on her head and a large cigar in her mouth. The cigar smoking habit is very common among them, but there is evidently some diffidence on the subject.



for whenever a woman who was smoking saw my camera she impulsively removed the cigar.

The costumes of the aristocracy resemble those of the Europeans. The women of the lower classes dress in calico gowns with low necked waists and short sleeves. Over the shoulders and head is draped a white square of cotton which reaches nearly to the bottom of the skirt.

In the country one sees boys and girls of 10 or 12 years in nature's garb. Some natives, like the Tobas Indians, wear little or nothing. A necklace frequently suffices.

The market place is naturally the centre of gossip, where it is the aim of every woman to be known as the "patroness" of a home.

It does not cost much to live. One hundred dollars American money is worth \$900 Paraguayan, and \$1 Paraguayan has the purchasing power there which \$1 in American money has here.

At Villota our host stopped long enough to take on 10,000 oranges. The great piles assorted by women were worth in Ameri-

can gold only 40 cents a thousand.

We ate them freely, played ball with them and finally conducted a miniature warfare, using them as missiles. I was subjected to a shower of them from a group of women who objected to being photographed while they were sitting on the ground eating lunch, and was completely routed. The scene of this orange war is now the headquarters for the revolutionary forces under Gen. Ferreira.

It happened that John Barrett, recently resigned as Minister to Argentina, was on his way to Paraguay on the same boat as the writer. The fact that a real live American Minister, whose name had so prominently appeared in the world's news, was coming to Paraguay excited more than ordinary attention.

When we anchored in the river at Asuncion at 7 o'clock in the morning we saw standing on the dock several men in silk hats and frock coats. They immediately came out in a boat manned by a crew in naval uniforms and waited for Mr. Barrett

to finish shaving. The party consisted of the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the American Consul, an American dentist, a personage ever prosperous in South America; an American teacher, and an American bartender, another figure of prominence in South American cities.

The Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs came to extend a welcome to Minister Barrett and his party in behalf of the Paraguayan President, and to invite them to the Government House at 10 that morning. A little before 9 a naval gig was sent along-side, and from it we were conveyed to the wharf, where we found the President's carriage in waiting to convey us to the Government House.

On our arrival at the Government House we were first received by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of War and the Minister of Justice. It was soon announced that the President was ready to receive us.

He proved to be a tall, rawboned man of military appearance, formerly a General in the army. This office is frequently the stepping stone to the Presidency.

At breakfast the following were the guests of Dr. Soler, who has since been deputized by the revolutionary government to visit Brazil and other countries for the purpose of obtaining the recognition of his party as belligerents. He is the owner of the Central Paraguay Railroad, running from Asuncion to Pirapo. He was educated in Argentina, and is a

gentleman highly cultivated and of fine sensibility.

Following this hospitality he took us by special train to San Bernardino. San Bernardino is a beautiful summer resort on the shore of Lake Ypacaray. Its hotel would be a credit to any resort in the United States.

The village is a German settlement; only the peons or servants are natives of Paraguay. Although the hotel belonged to one of the largest property owners, his wife was the cook. She provided an exquisite dinner. Native orange wine, made in the little village, was served.

It was a surprise to find a community where the men as well as the women were at work.

At a banquet attended in Asuncion every one responded to a toast except the American dentist, who did his part in furnishing the cigars grown on his plantation from Havana seed and manufactured at his factory. Minister Barrett, in a speech in English, spoke of the world reputed bravery of the Paraguayans and of the phrase he was wont to hear in his boyhood: "As brave as a Paraguayan." and closed with a toast to the President and the country of Paraguay.

A prominent figure at the banquet was United States Consul Ruffin. He is an educated negro of ability, and his wife is an Englishwoman.

The object of my trip was the inspection of the Paraguay River, which teems with desirable food fishes. At Asuncion a fishery

is conducted by Italians. The daily product of the five or six seines averages thirty corbinnis, which sell at from \$1 to \$3 each.

A trawl fishery, operated by about the same number of men, catches as many of other species, notably the pacu and dorado. Inquiry as to why the people did not eat more fish elicited the reply that fish are too expensive and, besides, "no body but Indians eat fish."

As there was ample room for the operation of long seines, I inquired why it was not done to insure a much larger catch, and to this the reply came, "There is no demand for more fish."

"But if they catch more," I said, "the price can be reduced, putting the fish within the reach of the poor people."

The answer came, "They do not care to reduce the price."

Upon our departure a delegation of Paraguayan and American citizens visited the boat to say farewell. The reputation for cordiality and hospitality so noticeable to the stranger in South American countries was maintained in Paraguay.

The men whom I met were of a high order of intelligence. When the country was settled down to a stable government it will progress, as Argentina is now doing.

In all South American countries revolutions are discussed by the people with no more concern than the subject of strikes in our own country. Argentina is perhaps the only South American country of which it can be safely said that the period of revolutions is past.

ALIGHT FOR DIAMOND SHOAL.

ANOTHER PLAN TO PLACE ONE OFF CAPE HATTERAS.

Capt. Ellis Willing to Risk His Whole Fortune in an Attempt to Build a Lighthouse on Diamond Shoal, which lies about ten miles off the outer end of Cape Hatteras and is dreaded by coastwise sailors.

Another attempt is to be made to place a lighthouse on Diamond Shoal, which lies about ten miles off the outer end of Cape Hatteras and is dreaded by coastwise sailors. There have been many attempts to build a lighthouse on the shoal, and the Government has spent many thousands of dollars on structures of various types, only to have them battered down in the great gales or swallowed by the ever shifting sands.

Congressman William P. Hepburn, chairman of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives, has had many plans brought before him for building a lighthouse on the shoal, but none appeared practically until an engineer from Maine, an old whaling captain, came before the committee during the last session with a scheme that seemed to promise some hope of success, and will cost the Government nothing in case of failure.

Capt. Ellis, the engineer, proposes to build a huge cylinder of steel, provided with pumping apparatus and compartments to let in water so that it may be sunk on the shoal. Once in position, he intends to pump the sand from below until the steel cylinder is buried fifteen feet, well below the shifting surface of the shoal. Then the cylinder is to be filled with concrete, and will serve as the foundation for a skeleton tower which will lift a light 200 feet above sea level and yet offer little surface to the heavy winter gales.

All previous attempts to place a light on an iron storage house, large enough to contain a six months' supply of oil for the lantern and food for two keepers. There will also be a small living place on the shore. The estimated cost of the lighthouse is \$500,000, and Capt. Ellis offers to accept payment, with 5 per cent. interest, five years after the completion of the light, no payment to be made unless the tower is in perfect condition at the end of that time. The great hurricanes which sweep across the coast come here once in three years, so the five years' trial call for in the contract should be ample to test the stability of the tower.

All previous attempts to place a light on Diamond Shoal have failed because the sand washed away from the foundations and the sea soon undermined the structure. The plan of sinking the tower fifteen feet below the surface of the bar will, he believes, prevent the sea from getting under the tower, and the great weight of the concrete will hold it in place.

His plan met with the approval of Congressman Hepburn's committee, and the appropriation was voted. Mr. Hepburn said that the approval of the Senate was promised and that work would probably begin as soon as the weather permitted in the spring.

Capt. Ellis, an old sailor, knows the dangers of the shoal, and it is understood that he is risking his whole fortune on the success of his undertaking.

The shoal is about twenty miles at sea, and will enable vessels to get their bearings and keep well clear of this most dangerous spot on our Atlantic Coast.

Their Food That of the Ape

Mr. and Mrs. La Croix. Frugivores. Tell How They Thrive on Nuts and Raw Fruits.

A little cottage at Coyteville, N. J., has been, all this summer, the resort of dozens of New Yorkers who are interested in "New Thought" and vegetarian diet. Here live Mr. and Mrs. Emile La Croix, who have advanced beyond all save a very few in the matter of food reform. They might be described as vegetarians who eat no vegetables or grains of any sort. They call themselves frugivores.

Both Mr. and Mrs. La Croix are actors by profession, and the pretty little cottage at Coyteville is their temporary summer residence while a new house is being erected for them a short distance beyond, just above the steep cliff of the Palisades.

There is nothing in their appearance to denote a restricted diet. Mr. La Croix is tall, with a robust physique, a full face, and rosy cheeks. His wife is also the picture of health, with a clear skin and beautiful color.

For four years Mr. La Croix has eaten nothing but nuts and raw fruits, and Mrs. La Croix has made them her principal diet during the same period, though she sometimes partakes of fresh cooked vegetables. Neither has touched meat for eight years.

The writer took the half hour ride by trolley to Coyteville recently, and found Mr. La Croix swinging in his hammock by the beach the trees in the garden before his home. He led the way through a long grape arbor, rich in its abundance of fruit, to the pretty reception room, where Mrs. La Croix appeared to make the visitor welcome.

"No, I do not call myself a vegetarian,"

said Mr. La Croix. "I consider that vegetables, grains and such foods were no more meant for man than was meat; and both are harmful to him. I am a frugivore, pure and simple."

"You see, when I was searching for the perfect diet of man I made a thorough study of Mr. Monkey, the one of nature's children that is constituted most like the human race. And in the course of this research I found the assertion that the anthropoid ape was the only true frugivore in existence, the only animal who lived entirely on fruits and nuts, never touching grasses or grains of any sort."

"From learning of the rapid deterioration of the monkey in captivity, when fed upon the artificial diet man has adopted, I became convinced that I could not do better than follow the example of the anthropoid ape. And the success of my trial has, I think, proved my conviction to be correct."

"In nature I found that the digestion and constitution of monkeys are of the strongest. Sickness is practically unknown among them, and their bones are so hard and their joints so supple that if they fall from even a great height, no fractures occur."

"But up at the zoo the monkeys are sickly and very prone to consume, and if one falls from a crossbar it is likely to break a leg. Its bones have become soft."

"I am convinced that if man would live on fruits and nuts for several generations his bones would become hard and fine—a substance more like ivory than the

material of which the human skeleton is now composed. Such a thing as a fracture would be unknown. One could even fall from a fourth story window without suffering an injury."

Mrs. La Croix here told of an incident which, she thought, went to prove in a remarkable manner that there was something in this theory. At one period, she said, she had become an out and out frugivore—had eaten not a thing but nuts and raw fruits for nine months while away on a theatrical tour.

On returning home she went to her dentist to have a tooth repaired, a cavity having started some months before. When the dentist tried to cut away a little of the filling in existence, the only animal who lived entirely on fruits and nuts, never touching grasses or grains of any sort.

It was only after long effort that he succeeded in removing even the small portion necessary. He said that he had never before encountered such hard enamel, and as Mrs. La Croix's teeth had not been remarkable for their strength in the past, he was naturally astounded.

When she explained to him what her diet had been he did not hesitate to declare that the improved condition of her teeth was undoubtedly due to the refined salts which are found in abundance in fruit and nuts.

"It is these refined salts which not only harden the bones, but make a body well saturated with them proof against microbes of any sort," said Mr. La Croix. "I can now eat anything that has been properly corned without being affected by microbes."

"Before I started this diet I was troubled with catarrh, a malady especially unfortunate in my profession. I went to a doctor who is considered to be the leading specialist in such cases in New York."

"I want you to cure me. Spare no expense," I said.

"It is an impossible task," he replied after an examination.

"Do you mean to say I am incurable?" I demanded.

"Yes, the disease is too far advanced. In order to cure you I would have to be able to make a new membrane for the entire lining of your body," he explained.

"Three months after I began to eat only

nuts and fruits my catarrh vanished, and it has not returned."

"The refined salt found in natural foods is the only one man should touch. It is a mistake to put common salt on nuts. Coarse salt was made for the lower animals, such as the cow, and it should be left to them."

Nuts and fruits contain the three things necessary for human life, health and energy. They abound in proteins, carbohydrates and salts. The term acid fruits leads many persons to imagine that apples and such fruits contain acids, and that to eat many of them is injurious.

"No fruits contain acids, though the juices of some will turn into acids when decayed or fermented, as cider will become vinegar. Rheumatism, paralysis and such diseases are due to uric acid which meats and other artificial foods contain, and such complaints would be unknown if man lived on his natural diet."

"You have remarked that Mrs. La Croix and I are the only non-meat eaters you have ever seen who have really healthy color and rosy cheeks. It is a fact that people who live on grains and vegetables have pale, pasty complexions. I have visited all the large health food sanitariums in my travels, and the authorities of every one had to acknowledge that patients acquired a pallor under their treatment, though improved in health."

"This is because the grains do not contain the proper amount of heat and energy-giving nutrients, as do the nuts, which send a warm, healthy glow to the cheeks. Grains are not the natural food of man. They are grasses cultivated by his art."

"Next to meats, they are the most dangerous of all edibles; but so greatly has man become addicted to their use in many forms that he will cling to them even after he has given up all other unnatural foods. They are full of raw starch, which is impossible to digest, unless they are thoroughly cooked."

"And even supposing the grain is submitted to the prolonged high temperature necessary to secure the bursting of the myriad little starch cells of which it is composed, the part of the starch thus converted into dextrine may be digested, but the remainder collects in certain glands, and serves only to build layers of superfluous fat around

the abdomen. This is the reason that persons who are fond of starchy foods are largely out of proportion in the abdominal regions."

"Now you will observe that while my face is full, and my arms large and muscular, I have no superfluous fat on me anywhere. This is not a result produced by exercise, nor are my muscular arms produced by manual work. Both are due to a perfect diet, which gives me everything I should have, and nothing I do not need. There is no starch in nuts and raw fruits."

"Many vegetables abound in starch. Corn is about the least injurious. It is largely composed of sugar. Vegetables are not natural foods for man, but weeds cultivated by him. Most of them suck up water and salts from the ground, without their being refined, as they always are in the fruits."

"The water, salt and sugar which nuts and fruits contain are sucked up from the ground by the roots of the trees and then ascend through the trunk, boughs, branches and twigs, down the stem, and into the fruit. In this long filtering process they are thoroughly distilled and refined and reach us in their purest form."

"Metals also are sucked up by the trees. That it is well for us to have gold and silver in our pockets every one agrees; but few persons realize how necessary it is for us to have a bit of both in our systems, and of iron, copper and sulphur as well."

"Different trees absorb different metals, and in the fruits these are drawn to the surface by the sun and form the various colors which we behold in the skins. Never pare fruit, therefore. When you do so you cut away the metals necessary to your system."

"Mine is an ideal diet for the road. No relying upon buffet cars or worrying about the sort of fare you will have at the next hotel. I remember once when I was traveling with Chauncey Olcott's company, the dining car belonging to our train was forgotten, and we started on a long journey without it."

"That night the rest of the company had no dinner and became pretty well starved. I was unconscious of their predicament, having dined well on nuts. Suddenly Mrs. Olcott recollected what my usual diet was

and a crowd of hungry mortals instantly besieged me. Luckily, I was supplied with enough for everybody, so no one went hungry to bed."

"We are often asked how we find sufficient variety in this diet. Few persons realize how many different nuts and fruits there are. Then it must be remembered that it is only when man is living on foods not suited to his system that he constantly craves variety. Let him adopt the food that supplies all the needs of his body, and the desire for variety vanishes."

"I never tire of pecan nuts myself. I can eat them twice a day, for weeks at a time, and always find them milky and delicious."

"I am also fond of pignolias, and these are very rich in proteins; but most persons do not care for them. Peanuts and chestnuts, it must be understood, are not really nuts. The peanut is a legume and, like the bean and all its family, is composed largely of raw starch. The meat of the chestnut is on the order of a grain."

"I take only two meals a day, with one kind of nut and one or two fruits at each. In what order do the courses come? Well, when you have two tasks to perform, if you are wise, you will do the hardest first. The nuts, being the most difficult to digest, should be eaten first, then the sweet fruits, and the juicy fruits at the last."

"In the summer we do not eat so many sweet fruits, nature having provided us with an abundance of the fresh ones which we need and crave at this season. In winter, dates, prunes, figs and raisins make a good portion of our fare, and all of these except the dates should be soaked until they absorb the amount of water which has been evaporated in drying them, and they assume their natural size. If they can be soaked in distilled water, such as they formerly contained, it would of course be better."

"People do not appreciate the strength and nourishment contained in raisins. They are the finest of all the sweet fruits in my estimation. Little sacks of concentrated nourishment," as I once heard a doctor call them."

"Tomatoes are considered fruit, and are much in favor in the La Croix household. Mrs. La Croix has read and studied for

herself along her husband's line of thought, and is in thorough sympathy with his ideas, though she is not a strict frugivore."

"You see, it is rather hard to keep to such a restricted diet," she explained.

"I must say, however, that I never felt overlooked better than during the nine months when I lived entirely on nuts and fruits. The cost of the diet is about the same as that of ordinary fare. In summer it is, perhaps, a little cheaper; and then it always saves in cooking, dishwashing and doctors' bills. But I do not believe in adopting diet reform with a view to economy. The average person will eat about three pounds of nut meats a week, and no one should buy anything but the very best in fruits."

"Every morning, as soon as we arise, Mr. La Croix and I take an orange or grapefruit. That wakes the system up and sends the blood tingling through the veins. Then, in about half an hour, after bathing and dressing, we feel ready for breakfast. This morning I had Brazilian orange nuts and pignolias. And this is my second meal now."

"I don't exactly believe in regular meals, hours. In the home we are building the dining room will be especially large and artistic, and I intend to have a table there always spread with dishes of nuts and fruits, so that every one can go in and help himself when he is hungry. Regular meals will be served only when we have guests who are used to them."

"I never found the nuts in the least indigestible, even when I first tried them. If they are eaten first and not at the end of a heavy meal, where most people place them, they should not harm even the most delicate digestion. They should be carefully reduced to a cream in the mouth before being swallowed, however."

"One does not eat too large a quantity in this as in ordinary diet, though one receives more nourishment. In the ordinary diet there is a great deal of waste matter, and a man has to consume a great amount in bulk in order to receive a little in real nutriment. Thus his stomach becomes unnaturally distended and craves its fill. But after a short period of proper living it shrinks to its proper size and the unnatural craving vanishes."

FOR A FORTY LETTER ALPHABET.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Boston University has issued a circular inviting opinions on the proposal to hold an international conference for the purpose of adopting a universal alphabet, by which to indicate the pronunciation of words in the leading European languages.

The twenty-six letters of the Roman alphabet are known the world over, and it is safe to say that 90 per cent. of the world's printing is done with these letters. Thus the universal alphabet already exists; it only remains to remove a few differences.

For the most part the twenty-six letters represent the same sounds in all languages. Write the words arm, brick, past, black, clock, harmony, individuality, and they will be pronounced alike, or nearly alike, by all Europeans, even though they may not know a word of English.

As the value of the letters is not quite the same in different languages, or even within one language, it becomes necessary for dictionaries and language manuals to use what is called a key to pronunciation. As the scientific study of pronunciation is of rather recent development, no uniformity has as yet been attained in its notation.

Almost every dictionary uses a key of its own, which is useless to the reader except for that one dictionary. Whoever wishes to use several dictionaries or language manuals has to learn as many keys.

As a result, he does not become master of any. Whenever he wishes to ascertain the pronunciation of a word he has to consult the key at the bottom of the page or in the beginning of the book.

Recently there has been a marked tendency on the part of dictionary makers to use the same symbols for speech sounds. As a culmination of this movement it is now proposed to replace the multiplicity of keys by a single key, as perfect as it can be made through the amplex possible discussion and experimentation by a commission composed of the foremost experts in this line of research.

By slight modifications, such as will not interfere with legibility, it is thought that the number of letters can be increased from twenty-six till it suffices to represent all the sounds of the leading languages. In English about forty letters would be required.

Several letters even now are used in several forms in roman and italics (a, e, g); in script the variety is still greater. By assigning to each of these forms a definite sound, forty letters may easily be provided.

Should this key come into general use in dictionaries it would impress itself on the memory of dictionary users of all nationalities and enable them at a glance to pronounce correctly any word written in that key.

As a preliminary measure, it is desired to obtain the opinion of the learned public on the desirability and practicality of the proposed conference. For this purpose the circular has been sent to the members of the American Philological Association, who are to meet in St. Louis about the middle of September, when the chief philologists of the world will be assembled in that city. A second circular will be sent to all university professors as soon as the faculties reassemble.

The list of questions accompanying the circular indicates the scope of the movement.

First—Is it possible to devise a universal alphabet to be used as a key to pronunciation in all dictionaries of the leading languages?

Second—If so, is it desirable that such a key should be made through the amplex possible discussion and experimentation by a commission composed of the foremost experts in this line of research?

Third—If by this means the raising of all languages manuals, primers and readers?

Fourth—If so, is it desirable that such form be given to this key?

Fifth—Would a universal key alphabet be an aid to learning the pronunciation of foreign languages?

Sixth—If so, would that fact contribute to render this key alphabet (and therefore, the phonetic spelling) more readily than by the present method, would it be advisable to teach them the phonetic spelling first?

Seventh—The universal alphabet having once been adopted as a key to pronunciation in all dictionaries, is it probable that it will be used in all printed matter?

Eighth—If by this means the raising of all languages manuals, primers and readers?

Ninth—Do you think that an agreement on a phonetic spelling children learn to read and write in a few weeks and master even the traditional spelling more readily than by the present method, would it be advisable to teach them the phonetic spelling first?

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